

Resolved, That (a) the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, or a subcommittee of the committee designated by the committee and its members appointed by the chairman and ranking member, shall immediately begin an investigation into the relationship between the source and timing of past campaign contributions to Members of the House related to the raided firm and earmark requests made by Members of the House on behalf of clients of the raided firm.

(b) The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall submit a report of its findings to the House of Representatives within 2 months after the date of adoption of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Arizona will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on official business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" for the adoption of H. Res. 421, recognizing and commending the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on its 75th year anniversary; I would have voted "aye" on adoption of H.J. Res. 40, Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009; and I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 489, recognizing the 20th anniversary of the brutal suppression of protesters and citizens in and around Tiananmen Square.

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STOP SELLING AMERICA TO CHINA

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. On the last resolution, I heard earlier tonight my friend from California (Mr. BERMAN) who has a heart for those who suffer around this world, and I certainly acknowledge that.

In support of the resolution of remembering the devastation in Tiananmen Square, he asked a question about how China could rightfully take a place among the superpowers, or among the world powers, when there is so much left unresolved about Tiananmen Square. Who was shot? Who was killed? I have an answer. They're buying America. We're going into debt bigger and bigger every day, and they're buying us, so they can kind of do what they want as long as they're

buying America. The answer that it started with Bush is not a good answer because, yes, it did. So stop already. We were promised change. Let's change. Let's stop running up debt, and let's stop selling this country to China.

STANDING ALONGSIDE PAKISTAN

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the eyes of the world have been watching the terrible conflict in Pakistan. They have watched the Pakistani military attempt to free certain areas of terrorist interests that would undermine the peace and security of that nation.

I would hope that we would all support the idea of peace and security. I believe in peace over conflict. I actually am appalled at the level of violence, but we must support the people of Pakistan and its military, which has risen to the occasion to fight against those who would undermine the civilian government. We can't have it both ways, and they are not doing this at the behest of the United States Government but for their own people.

We must also join in the humanitarian aid to give to those 2.5 million people who are now being evacuated. We must be prayerful about the young people who were abducted, and we must praise again the Pakistani military, which itself has lost lives. We now need to stand alongside this country and not forsake it and stand for its democracy and its security.

THE CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to bring attention to the Congressional Rural Caucus, of which I have the privilege of being vice Chair, along with my colleague from across the aisle, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. The caucus is being led by co-Chairs Mr. CHILDERS of Mississippi and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, whom I commend for their bipartisan spirit and for their ability to reach across this so-often divided aisle in order to push for the betterment of rural issues—our rural values and our rural way of life.

The Rural Caucus has re-formed and is alive and well. Together, we will focus on issues of telecom, education and workforce development, transportation, and health care.

In January, the Congressional Rural Caucus penned a letter to the President asking him to form an Office of Rural Policy to complement the recently created Office of Urban Policy. Today, I echo that call, and I encourage the administration to make a commitment to create communities of choice, not of

destiny, where no one should ever be at a disadvantage because of where one is born or chooses to live.

MEDIA SHOULD NOT ALLOW VOTING TO INFLUENCE REPORTING

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at the recent White House Correspondents' Dinner, President Obama joked to the reporters in attendance: "Most of you covered me. All of you voted for me."

Some jokes are true; and, unfortunately, this joke is on the American people.

According to Investor's Business Daily, journalists who gave campaign money to then-Senator Obama outnumbered those who contributed to Senator MCCAIN by a 20-1 margin. The media gave money to him. They voted for him. Now they're giving him a free pass.

According to one analysis, network newscasts have portrayed the President as a deficit fighter five times more often than they have portrayed him as a big spender even though his budget will double the national debt in 5 years and will triple it in 10.

Yes, the media voted for President Obama, but they should not allow their voting to influence their reporting.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HIMES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN PAKISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Recently, Mr. Speaker, I met with a distinguished group of Pakistani Americans whom I proudly represent in the Seventh Congressional District of Maryland. I listened to their perspectives regarding the current situation in Pakistan.

Ladies and gentlemen, I rise today to share their concerns, and I urge each of you to recognize the complex emergency that is taking place in Pakistan. The situation requires our immediate attention and assistance.

As you should be aware, more than 3 million people have been displaced from the Swat Valley area of Pakistan since early April 2009. At a rate of approximately 85,000 people fleeing per day, the unfolding internal displacement crisis in Pakistan is the fastest movement of people in such massive numbers since the Rwandan genocide

of 1994. The United Nations has warned of a long-term humanitarian crisis, and it has called for massive aid for the refugees.

President Obama's administration took a proactive role in providing humanitarian aid to the internally displaced people. The administration's recent announcement to provide \$110 million in additional humanitarian aid was the beginning of a new era of friendship and trust between the governments and the people of Pakistan and the United States. Although this funding was a significant first step, it is only a fraction of what is required to repatriate the internally displaced people to their homes and to reestablish some degree of normalcy in their lives.

All efforts must be made for the safe and early return of the internally displaced Pakistanis to their homes. The United States, along with the international community, must come together and provide the needed assistance.

Recently, I sent a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to ask that she immediately increase her appeal of help to the international community from the current \$500 million to \$1 billion in humanitarian aid to provide immediate assistance to the internally displaced people from Swat. Lending support of this magnitude equates to a small pledge of approximately \$400 per IDP.

The second concern is the impression the Pakistani people have about the United States' interest. We must work to dispel the image the Pakistanis have about our country. The time has come to establish a long-term, consistent policy to close the trust deficit in our relationship by making investments in Pakistan's future.

I believe that the United States needs to take immediate action which translates into goodwill in the eyes of the Pakistanis. Effective ways to accomplish this goal by directly impacting people's lives include providing more humanitarian aid, investing in infrastructure development projects such as electrical power plants, road construction and railway improvements, and contributing to bilateral trade. It is imperative that we focus on projects with a tangible outcome that improve the well-being of Pakistanis. Pakistanis are putting faith into democratic movements. Now we must learn how to relate to them and how to build their confidence in our ability to deliver on our promises.

My discussion with the Pakistani Americans in my district was an eye opener that allowed me to gain their perspectives on the current situation in Pakistan. I encouraged Ambassador Holbrooke to and he has agreed to sit down with a small group on June 12, 2009, so that he, too, can get a better understanding of the complex issues that the people of Pakistan now face.

I also encourage each of you to reach out to the Pakistani Americans and to their affiliated organizations within

your districts. I encourage you to really listen to what they have to say. You will be amazed by what they will tell you. Let us seize the moment by delivering President Obama's promise of hope to the people of the great nation of Pakistan.

PARTISAN POLITICS IN AUTO DEALERSHIP CLOSURES?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just south of Houston, there is a town called Alvin, Texas, where a Chrysler dealership called Rogers Dodge is making a lot of money selling Chryslers; but on June 9, they are going to close down because the auto task force gang has notified them that they have to close.

Rogers Dodge is on the list of 789 Chrysler dealerships around the country that are being closed down under questionable circumstances. There are five in the Houston area alone. The question remains: What are the criteria for closing down these dealerships?

The auto task force gang picks winners and losers, but they refuse to tell America how those decisions are made. Well, neither they nor the administration is talking. The blissful silence makes us wonder what's going on. Some of these Chrysler dealerships being ordered to close are profitable—others are not—but according to some news reports, there's one thing they all have in common except for one single exception found so far: they all have connections in some manner to making campaign contributions to Republicans.

Chrysler, an American institution, is no longer being run as a private-sector company. It has been taken over by the auto task force tyrants appointed personally by the administration. These individuals tell Chrysler what to do, and they have to do it because Chrysler took all that bailout money before they went into bankruptcy. Now the auto task force gang gets to run the company.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, we still don't know where that wasted bailout money went.

According to the Federal Election Commission Web site, there are reporters and bloggers around the country who have been digging through lists of donations. They have been comparing donor names on the lists with the names of owners of the Chrysler dealerships that have been forced to close. Some of these reports say that campaign contributions went to GOP candidates or to political action committees from the Chrysler dealerships that are being forcibly shut down.

Did this group of auto task force individuals discriminate against Republican dealerships in Chrysler-style or in Chicago-style paybacks? We don't know. How in the world can we square

that with the reports that only one dealership being ordered to close down so far contributed to the administration's campaign—and that was only for \$200? Campaign contributions appear to be the common thread in all of these ordered closures. That's some coincidence.

Rogers Dodge in Alvin, Texas, is one of the more profitable dealerships. Newspaper reports say they have increased their new car sales by 50 percent in just the last 4 months. That's a big accomplishment in this economy. They paid cash for their brand-new \$3.7 million building 3 years ago. Along with many other dealerships, they bought millions of dollars of inventory after being pressured by Chrysler to help the company's financial situation so that Chrysler wouldn't go bankrupt. Now all of these assets paid for by these dealerships will be worth mere pennies on the dollar. One report in the Houston Chronicle said this inventory of cars that the dealerships were pressured to buy now will have to be sold as used cars.

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Some of these dealerships are fighting back against the Auto Task Force with a lawsuit of their own. According to the Houston Chronicle article, Nicholas Parks, the president of Rogers Dodge and a lawyer, says he's fighting the closure because he doesn't think the bankruptcy court should be used to close these vendors, especially those that are making money. How can you use the bankruptcy laws to shut down a vendor who is making a profit for Chrysler? This is very interesting. The American people are starting to ask a few questions on their own.

Are these Auto Task Force tyrants picking the winners and losers based on campaign contributions? Does the administration have a Nixon-style enemies list? All these questions because the Auto Task Force guys aren't talking and aren't telling us why they closed down certain dealerships and why they let others remain open.

We are now living in a time where the government controls both Chrysler and GM, which we should call Government Motors. And the government alone, not the free market, decides who wins, who loses, who stays in business and who must be forcibly closed down. Meanwhile, 100,000-plus Chrysler workers at auto dealerships who did nothing wrong will be out of work on June 9 thanks to government control. So much for the promise of new jobs.

And that's just the way it is.

ENDING THE NUCLEAR THREAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, when the Cold War ended, the people of the world hoped that the threat of nuclear war would end also, but that hasn't